



Brownfields Initiatives in Region 9

Office of Outreach and Special Projects (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Currently, there are a number of Regionally funded Brownfields-related activities, such as targeted site assessments in urban areas, financial support of State voluntary cleanup programs, financial support of State regulation development, Inter-governmental Personnel Assignments (IPA) to cities, and outreach activities. Some of these activities are in the form of Regional or National pilots, while others are smaller scale actions such as prospective purchaser agreements. This fact sheet is one in a series of ten which outline Brownfields-related activities occurring in each of the ten Regions.

OVERVIEW

EPA Region 9 is actively working to address brownfields and brownfields-related problems. Regionally-sponsored activities include the development of partnerships, training programs, pilot projects, and assessment materials to encourage communities to achieve their assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment goals.

ACTIVITIES

EPA Region 9 has undertaken or plans to undertake the following activities to build its Brownfields program:

- Region 9 is heavily involved in the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) program in the Cities of Oakland and San Francisco. The intention of Region 9's participation in the EC/EZ program is to assist the EZ/EC communities with achieving the goals of their strategic plans and to provide Agency assistance to meet community needs. Sacramento was recently selected for a Brownfields pilot to develop innovative environmental and redevelopment programs which will form

the foundation of a substantial brownfields redevelopment program and will promote community participation.

- Region 9 will station a person in East Palo Alto for three months, beginning July 24, to assist with redevelopment activities in the area and to help set up a Federal liaison position for the City. This position is expected to identify various programs, grants, etc. which could be available to the City, and to build ongoing communication channels between EPA and East Palo Alto.
- Region 9 is planning to provide assessment services for the cities of Oakland, East Palo Alto, and Los Angeles, California. The Region is working with the cities to define their specific needs and timing and is working internally to streamline their assessments so that they are most helpful to the cities and do not include unnecessary steps. Recently, Region 9, the State, and the City of East Palo Alto agreed on the scope of a planned EPA investigation to be conducted at a large brownfields property in January 1996.

- The San Francisco Regional Office has initiated a project with the City of Oakland, California and other regulatory agencies. The pilot is a redevelopment project to develop classes of sites defined by specific criteria. Once classes are defined, default cleanup levels for specific compounds of concern will be established for each class of site.
- Under a Superfund Core grant, Region 9 is working with the State of California to formulate a Memorandum of Agreement so that sites which successfully complete their Voluntary Cleanup Program are assured that EPA will not have further cleanup requirements. Also, under this grant the State and Region 9 will host a Brownfields Summit in Northern California in Spring 1996 to further the Brownfields Initiative in the Region. Other smaller workshops will be held with stakeholders in Central and Southern California locations.
- The Region has collaborated with the Department of Labor's Office of Job Corps to either assist in the development of an environmental training program for Job Corps students or to adapt a suitable existing curriculum to better prepare students for the environmental job market. The program will focus on familiarizing the students with environmental priorities and how they, as citizens, affect the environment.

CONTACT

Sherry Nikzat
U.S. EPA - Region 9
(415) 744-2360



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency (5101)
Washington, DC 20460

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